

## GWWA Breeding Habitat Session

There has been a concerted effort to standardize breeding grounds demographic and habitat characterization protocols so that data can be pooled for meta-analysis. The goal of these projects is to provide managers with specific prescriptions to enhance habitat quality for gwwa. The main points from our discussion.

- 1) The main goal of the development of protocols is to have specific data collection components that can be used by any project depending on project objectives and then shared across the range. The main components include
  - a) density estimation (spot mapping)
  - b) point counts
  - c) reproduction
  - d) return rates/survival
  - e) territory mapping
  - f) habitat characterization at multiple spatial scales
    - i) nest site
    - ii) territory
    - iii) stand or patch
    - iv) landscape

We need to finalize the protocols in terms of what variables need to be measured and what sampling protocols need to be used. This needs to be completed well before next field season.

Some specific questions:

- 1) How do you characterize patchiness in terms of gwwa habitat?
- 2) What landscape metrics might be useful for describing biologically relevant habitat from a gwwa perspective?
- 3) How can we translate our results to managers for habitat management actions?
- 4) Should we or can we develop similar habitat characterization protocols for the wintering grounds?